[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

A poll was demanded and taken with the following results:—

AYES—16.

Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
" A. Govinda Menon.
" A. Hoogewerf.
" M. K. Khadir Pillai.
" T. K. Velu Pillai.
" N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
" C. Sankara Menon.
" P. K. Narayana Pillai.
Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.
" K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Tiruvalla*).
" M. N. Pillai.
" M. R. Madhava Variar.
" V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
" T. Kumara Pillai.
" C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
" K. Dominic Tomman.

NOES—22.

Mr. I. C. Chacko.
" Paul V. Daniel.
" Dhanukoti Pillai.
" K George.
" L. C. Hodgson.
" R. Krishna Pillai.
Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
" P. Paramesvaran.
" K V. Natesa Aiyar.
" J. John Nidiry.
Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
" K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Ag. Director of Agriculture*).
" L. R. Raja Raja Varma.
" C. Ramankunju.
" W. H. Pitt.
Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
" V. Subba Aiyar.
" S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
" A. J. Van Ross.

The resolution was declared lost.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M.

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The Council met again at 3-5 P. M.

***Appointment of a Committee to Examine the Working of the Department of Ayurveda.***

PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

*"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of official and non-official members be appointed to examine the working of the Department of Ayurveda and to suggest measures for its further encouragement and expansion."*

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I cannot hear what the member says.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, you are of course expected to speak from your seat. But if the House has no objection, you may take the seat next to Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai and speak.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Yes, I thank you, Sir.

I do not think it necessary to discuss the general efficacy of the Ayurvedic system of treatment or its merits and demerits as compared

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with western systems of medicine. The necessity for its encouragement has long been recognised by the Government and the popular faith in this system of treatment has never been shaken. It was in 1071 that a regular system of medical grants to Vaidyasalas was sanctioned by the Government. The Vaidyasalas were placed under a committee of two leading native physicians appointed by the Government, to whom all applications for grants were to be referred and whose duty was to advise the Government on all professional and other matters connected with the Vaidyasalas. They were each allowed an honorarium of Rs. 35 per mensem. In the following year, the system of grants-in-aid to the Vaidyasalas was improved and extended and rules were passed prescribing the conditions of grants and the duties and responsibilities of applicants for the same. There were 28 Vaidyasalas receiving grants in 1072, 68 in 1082, 73 in 1092, 81 in 1097 and 72 in 1098. The greatest encouragement sought to be given to indigenous treatment by the Government was by this system of grants-in-aid. At the end of 1093, on the retirement of Mr. Parameswaran Muttatu, who was then the Superintendent of Vaidyasalas, Mr. Sankara Menon was appointed the head of the department and designated Director of Ayurveda. The question of improving the usefulness of the department was immediately taken up by the Government; and on the advice of the new Director, who was well fitted for it on account of his high attainments and ability, a thorough reorganisation of the department was effected. The main features of the reorganisation were the revision of the curricula of studies in the Ayurveda Patasala, the opening of a botanical garden for the cultivation of medicinal plants, and the establishment of an Ayurveda pharmacy and an Ayurveda hospital and dispensary at Trivandrum. The dispensary was opened on the 18th of Karkadakam, 1093, and the botanical garden in Makaram, 1094. The garden continued to be worked till the end of 1096. In 1098 there was a revision of the scale of grants to the grant-in-aid Vaidyans, and a detailed syllabus of studies for the various Government Ayurveda examinations was also published. The reorganisation of the Vaidyasalas resulted in the elimination of "useless Vaidyans" (to quote the words of the report) and the abolition of "defunct Vaidyasalas." The total number of Vaidyasalas thus came down from 81 to 72.

The progress of the different branches of the department and the necessity for enquiry in regard to them may now be examined.

There were 72 Vaidyasalas in 1092 and the total number of patients treated in these Vaidyasalas was 1,40,045. The expenditure incurred during this year was about Rs. 17,392. In 1097 the number of patients treated in the 81 Vaidyasalas then existing was 1,80,431 and the amount spent was Rs. 14,100. Though the total number of the Vaidyasalas was reduced in 1098 from 81 to 72, the total number of patients increased to 1,90,837, and the amount, according to the revised estimate for 1098, is Rs. 15,300. We thus see that during the period from 1092 to 1098 the number of Vaidyasalas decreased by 2 per cent., as also the grant by nearly 12 per cent. though there has been a steady increase in the number of patients by 36 per cent. There have been several complaints regarding the way in which some of the Vaidyasalas are conducted

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

and there have also been several demands for the establishment of Vaidyasalas in places where the people are put to considerable difficulty for want of a medical institution in their locality. We find that there has been absolutely no improvement in the matter of efficiency or of the extension of these institutions during these years. Even of the 71 institutions now existing, my information is that only about 15 Vydiasalas are conducted on up-to-date and useful lines.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Is the member aware that the number of Vaidyasalas has not been reduced but has been raised to 82 after the defunct Vaidyasalas have been eliminated?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : I am not aware of it. My information is that the number of these institutions is reduced from 81 to 72. The work of medical relief is mainly conducted through the grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas in the State, the only institution directly managed by the Government being the hospital and dispensary at Trivandrum. And since the reorganisation of 1093, this hospital with its dispensary is the only additional establishment to which the Director has to devote his attention. We find that absolutely no improvement whatever has been made in this branch of the department. The work of supervision, so far as these institutions are concerned, consists mainly in the inspection of these Vaidyasalas. Of the 72 Vaidyasalas now existing—I think it will be 82 according to the Chief Secretary—the Director has inspected, during the whole course of the last six years, 16 Vaidyasalas thrice, 17 Vaidyasalas twice, and 27 Vaidyasalas once only, while 12 Vaidyasalas have not even once been visited by him. Of the 16 Vaidyasalas inspected thrice, one is the Vaidyasala in Trivandrum itself and the remaining are all Vaidyasalas north of Trivandrum and situated on the way. Even the Turavur Vaidyasala, which is a little away from the route, has not been examined. Of the 17 Vaidyasalas examined twice, 2 are Vaidyasalas in Trivandrum and only 3 south of Trivandrum, of which one is at Cape Comorin and the other two are on the way to it. Of the 27 institutions inspected once, 5 are south, and the rest north, of Trivandrum. All the 12 Vaidyasalas which have never been inspected even once are north of Trivandrum and away from the route. The Government order reviewing the Report of 1098 says:

"The number of days for which the Director was in camp is very low compared with the previous three years. While he was in camp for 40 days in 1095, the number of days spent by him in camp fell to 34 in 1096, 16 in 1097 and 10 in 1098. This is unsatisfactory and the Government hope that in future he will spend more time in camp on inspection duty."

An Inspector on a pay of Rs. 40, which is less than that of the head clerk of the department, appears also to have been appointed. Why a special Inspector should at all have been appointed is not clear. The Director has no teaching work to attend to in the college and he has no need to be in the hospital. In fact the important work of the

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Director consists in the supervision of the institutions in his charge. A thorough enquiry in this branch of the department appears to be necessary and suggestions for improvement should be called for.

In 1092 the amount spent on the Patasala in Trivandrum was Rs. 5,113 and in 1098 the expenditure was Rs. 7,100, besides a grant of Rs. 220 for two private Patasalas. In this branch also, there has not been very much improvement though the curricula of studies seem to have been changed once or twice. There are no published rules for regulating the admission of students. The question of retaining grant-in-aid Patasalas, and if so, whether the encouragement given to these is sufficient to enable them to be properly conducted on up-to-date lines, has also to be considered.

By their Order dated 1st Mithunam, 1093, the Government sanctioned the opening of a pharmacy in Trivandrum and a sum of Rs. 1,500 was sanctioned for the purpose, of which Rs. 500 was for the manufacture of medicines. It was directed that the pharmacy was to confine its work to the practical training of pupils in the Patasala and to the supply of medicines for the hospital and dispensary. A botanical garden was also opened in Makaram, 1094. In Vrischikam, 1094, sanction was given for the manufacture and sale of medicines to the public. An advance of Rs. 4,000 was made for the purpose and the money was returnable as a debt. This advance has since been increased to Rs. 20,000 in 1098. The medicines were directed to be sold at *cost price* till the Government ordered in 1095 to fix a profit of 5 per cent. on the cost of medicines sold to the public. This order was again revised in the following year and the medicines were directed to be sold at 10 per cent. profit. This is the order now in force. The pharmacy is a purely commercial concern. Complete accounts should not only have been maintained as directed by the Government, but at least a summary of the accounts should have been published annually and a sale list of medicines should also have been published. But in spite of orders specially given by the Government, no proper accounts seem to have been maintained. It is also remarkable that till 1098 no audit of any accounts kept seems to have been conducted. Questions have been asked in this House about the accounts and their audit with respect to this pharmacy and the result of the audit conducted in Vrischikam, 1098. The answer is that the matter is still under the consideration of the Government and that no final orders have been passed. It is impossible to say whether the pharmacy is a successful business. The information is that there is no uniformity in the rates of payment for the purchase of articles for the preparation of medicines, no fixity of the quantity required for the purpose, that the prices paid by wholesale traders are far higher than those paid by retail merchants, and that widely different rates are paid to different persons on one and the same day in respect of the purchase of one and the same article. It is only reasonble to expect that articles used in and for the preparation of drugs, etc., should have been sold after use and the proceeds credited. But no such sale, so far as we are aware, has been conducted in the pharmacy. The articles required in the pharmacy are



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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

purchased directly from the bazaar men. No tender for the supply of articles is called for, and the rates paid for purchase of articles appear to have been exorbitant. Medicines are supplied even to the Palace by contractors; but, in the pharmacy no such course is adopted. Not only are exorbitant rates paid, but conveyance charges for taking articles to the pharmacy are also incurred in addition on account of this system of purchase. It is not clear why a contract system of purchase has not been adopted in the pharmacy and the direct purchase system is continued. Arrangements should have been made for the supply of articles by contract after due notification in the *Gazette*. We have absolutely no information as to what the balance in stock at the end of each year is. There is no sale list of medicines—at least no such list has been published. We are not in a position to say what the variations in the prices of medicines now supplied are. If a price list had been published we would have been in a position to know and compare the prices of medicines sold in the pharmacy with those procurable elsewhere. There is no information as to the amount of medicines supplied to the hospital. A business concern like the pharmacy has to keep accounts of its assets and of everything else; and being a Government institution it ought to have served as a model for private pharmacies. It seems to us that the Government must have incurred serious losses owing to all these causes without at the same time benefiting the public in the least. It is well-known that the quality of medicines sold at the pharmacy is inferior as compared to those supplied by private pharmacies. There has been a noticeable decline also in the sale of the medicines in the pharmacy since 1096. It is not at all a sufficient test of the efficiency of the pharmacy that the money advanced by the Government is returned.

Apart from all the intrinsic defects of management noticeable, there are other very serious drawbacks in the maintenance of this pharmacy which require careful consideration by the Government. It does not appear to be a good and sound policy for the Government to undertake a trading business like the pharmacy. It consumes so much of the attention, time and energy of such a high-paid officer like the Director, and, to a certain extent it accounts for his slackness in the work of supervision I have alluded to in connection with the grant-in-aid institutions. The question whether the maintenance of a pharmacy is an encouragement given to the Ayurvedic system of treatment is itself a very doubtful one. The only direct use of such a pharmacy is the supply of medicines to the hospital, but this purpose can very well be served by the purchase of the necessary medicines from well-recognised firms like those in Calcutta and other places. Such medicines like decoctions as require to be made on the spot need alone be made in the pharmacy. Even at present the patients treated in the hospital are purchasing medicines from private pharmacies. The existence of this pharmacy is an impediment to the improvement that has to be effected in other branches of the department. While great credit is due to the Director for organising and conducting a hospital and dispensary, it appears to be a loss to the

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Government to allow the Director to be occupied with the business of a pharmacy for the sale of medicines. Whether the retention and continuance of the pharmacy is necessary and, if so, how it has to be improved, are all questions which require detailed examination.

The progress of the hospital and dispensary also is not encouraging. There is a fall in the number of in-patients and out-patients receiving treatment from the hospital. The hospital and dispensary are maintained at an expense of Rs. 11,400 according to the revised estimate of 1098. The establishment of the hospital was really a progress in the right direction and it was very largely availed of by the people as is seen from the fact that more than 10,000 people had sought relief from the hospital during the first five months after its establishment. But there has been no progress since then. On the contrary, the number of patients has begun to decrease. There is an impression that the decoctions and other medicines sent to the hospital are not of good quality. Instead of retaining the most experienced Vaidyan in this hospital there seem to have been frequent changes there which might also account for a fall in the number of patients.

It is a matter for enquiry whether a few more hospitals and dispensaries could not be established, at least in some of the most important centres of the State. Statistics show that 60 per cent. of the population in Trivandrum receive medical relief, of which 48 per cent. receive it from allopathic hospitals and 12 per cent. from the Ayurveda hospital. The hospital at Alleppey is able to afford relief only to 23 per cent. of the population of the taluk. The Quilon hospitals afford relief to 25 per cent., Kottayam 23 per cent., and Nagercoil 15 per cent. of the people in the respective taluks. This shows in what an advantageous position Trivandrum is as compared with other places. A programme of starting Ayurveda hospitals in some places, especially where the percentage of relief afforded is small, requires consideration by a committee. It is well-known that medical relief along western lines reaches but a very small percentage of the people. The majority of the people do still resort to the Vaidyans of the country. This is especially so in the case of the poorer classes of the people. Probably, some of the major municipalities at least may be asked to contribute to the maintenance of hospitals within their limits. There are several other suggestions that could be made for the improvement and extension of the Ayurvedic system of treatment. All these are questions which could be considered carefully by a committee and there is every reason to hope that useful results will follow from such an investigation. The subject of Ayurvedic treatment itself is receiving the most careful investigation all over India. Much useful information is likely to be obtained from what is going on outside Travancore. The extension and improvement of the grant-in-aid system, the improvement of Ayurvedic instruction, the extension and improvement of the hospital, the question of maintaining the pharmacy, the maintenance of a botanical garden, are all questions which can be considered only by a committee after careful enquiry. It is surprising to find that, in spite of the fact that several departments of the State

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

have codified rules for their own guidance and the guidance of the public, no such attempt has been made in this department. Some arrangement should also be made for the framing and publication of rules for the instruction and guidance of the departmental employees and the public. An enquiry for the purpose of removing the existing evils and for the purpose of suggesting methods for the extension and improvement of the Ayurvedic system of treatment appears to me to be absolutely necessary under the present circumstances ; and I, therefore, move this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

PRESIDENT: Does any member second the resolution ?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : I second it.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, though the system of grants-in-aid to Vaidyasalas has been in existence since 1071, the Department of Ayurveda as such was organised only in 1093, *i. e.*, after the present Director took charge of it early in that year. During this brief period, it has done much useful work. The Ayurveda Patasala has been converted into a college and two Ayurveda grant-in-aid High Schools have been newly opened. The syllabus of studies in the Ayurveda College has been revised on scientific lines to suit modern requirements. Arrangements have been made for anatomy and physiology being taught in the college on modern lines. The system of public examinations has been revised and improved. The grant-in-aid Vydiasalas have been thoroughly reclassified, the useless ones being eliminated, their number raised from 72 to 82 and the scale of grants suitably revised and enhanced. Government have also promised to raise the maximum number to 120 gradually.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When was it raised from 72 to 82 ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): This year. Orders were passed last year but effect was given to them only in 1099. An Inspector has been appointed to periodically inspect these institutions and see that they are properly and efficiently conducted. An Ayurveda hospital and dispensary has been established in Trivandrum. An Ayurveda pharmacy has also been opened for the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines and their supply to the hospital and sale to the public at comparatively cheap rates. The average cost of the medicines so sold to the public during the past five years is over Rs. 10,000. Arrangements have been made for a course of practical training being given to the students of the college in the actual preparation of medicines in the pharmacy. The number of patients treated in the Ayurveda hospital rose from 889 in 1093 to 24,966 in 1098. My friend the mover was saying that the number has been steadily going down. I think that is not correct. The number of patients treated in 1093 was 889 ; in 1094 it rose to 23,687 ; in 1095 it was 25,161; in 1096 it was 29,151 ; and in 1097 it was 30,850.

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MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I was quoting the figures for grant-in-aid institutions.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether there is any truth in the report that money is spent without proper accounts?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. I am coming to that. The number of patients treated by the grant-in-aid Vaidyans also rose from 1,45,255 in 1093 to 1,90,837 in 1098. Steps are being taken for the collection and publication of rare books on Ayurveda which have not yet seen the light of day.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was any work published?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; steps have beeen taken to publish rare works.

Now, this is not a bad record for a department which has been in existence only for six years. I do not claim perfection for the department. I do not deny that there may be defects in the working of the department. For instance, an examination of the accounts of the Ayurvedic pharmacy by one of the Assistant Account Officers in 1098 disclosed certain defects in the system of accounts maintained in the institution, and steps are being taken by the Government to improve the system.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Was that the first time the institution was inspected?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. It was only opened in 1095.

Such defects are incidental to every institution, especially in the earlier stages of its development. These defects cannot continue long but are bound to disappear in view of the vigilance which this Council is exercising over the working of the several departments of the State.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Was there any proper direction given as to the way in which account-keeping should be done?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Accounts were kept. The pharmacy was asked to keep accounts, but the forms were not specifically prescribed. This will be done.

Hence there is no reason or justification for the appointment of a committee to examine the working of the Ayurveda Department on its administrative side. To appoint a committee to overhaul the department in its infant stage would be like putting a plant into the soil and after a few days pulling it out to see if it has taken root.

If the object of the proposed committee is to offer advice on the professional or technical side of the department, there will be serious difficulties in organising a committee for the purpose and securing experts to serve on it. I do not deny there are renowned Ayurveda Vaidyans in Travancore and other parts of Malabar, but I am not sure if they possess that wide culture and comparative knowledge of other systems of medicine which alone would enable them to offer any useful

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

advice as regards the technical side of the department. For that purpose, we want men like Dr. Lakshmipati of Madras or Dr. Gananath Sen of Calcutta. But they cannot be easily had. Nor is it essential to indent on the services of such men. The report of the committee appointed by the Madras Government some time ago to enquire into the indigenous systems of medicine contains valuable suggestions as to the improvement of the Ayurveda system of treatment. The report of a similar committee recently appointed by the Bengal Government will be a valuable addition to the literature on the subject. For these reasons, I consider that the appointment of a committee to advise on the technical side of the working of the department is also unnecessary.

As I said before, I do not deny that there are defects in the working of the department, but they are bound to disappear. In any case, the defects are not so serious as to necessitate the appointment of a committee for their removal. For these reasons, I oppose the motion.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): I want to know whether there is any truth in the statement made by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai that the accounts were not properly kept.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Only the *system* of keeping accounts was not satisfactory.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Was it only with regard to the *system*? Is the Chief Secretary in a position to assure this House positively that there was nothing unsatisfactory with regard to the accounts themselves?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. There were two irregularities. One was that the store rules had not been followed in ordering the supplies. The other was that the prices paid were divergent.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Does it include paying higher prices for medicines? For example, suppose there is a particular medicine available in the Trivandrum market and purchased for His Highness the Maha Raja's Palace at a certain price. If the man sent to purchase the same medicine for the pharmacy pays ten times that price,—I mean I am only taking an extreme case,—is there such a kind of irregularity? If so, can you regard it as merely technical?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There has been payment of divergent prices. We have not standard prices for the articles.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Even in the case of ordinary articles purchased here by the Government, has there been in the opinion of the Government, very great disparity in the pric ?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There have been variations in prices.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : When there has been a variation, has it been always in the direction of charging higher prices ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The prices have been high in some cases.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): May I know whether the variations have been higher than the bazaar rates ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : In the case of some articles the prices have been high.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : May I know whether any comparison has been made between the prices of the articles purchased for the Palace and for the pharmacy and whether there was any disparity ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : There were differences.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : I wish to know whether there was any disparity.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I said there was disparity.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : Is the Chief Secretary in a position to say whether the Palace prices were lower than the pharmacy prices ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Unless every item is examined, I cannot answer that question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I beg to know whether a proper system of accounts is maintained in the department.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : We are trying to improve the system of accounts.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : My I know whether there is any price list of all the articles ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Does the member mean drugs ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No such lists have been published.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*) : May I know whether the articles purchased from Calcutta are superior to the articles purchased for the Palace ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I cannot say. The Director says that the articles purchased were of the best quality.

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*) : Were the articles purchased from Calcutta superior to the articles purchased for the Palace ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I am not in a position to say that.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Is it a fact that different prices were paid for the same articles purchased on the same day ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not sure.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether they are supported by vouchers ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, but vouchers are not obtained for petty purchases.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : I want to know whether the vouchers are from respectable and responsible firms.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I believe so.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : In the pharmacy, are they taking stock annually ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes ; the Director is expected to take stock every year.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : May I know whether an improvement in the system of account-keeping can cure the kind of work and the large variation in prices ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes ; a strict enforcement of the store rules will improve matters considerably.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether the Government have gone through the whole series of the variations of prices ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We are going through them.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Have you not completed the investigations ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*) : May I know whether he has made any comparison between the prices charged for certain well-known preparations in and outside Trivandrum, in Madras and other places, and, if so, whether in the Trivandrum pharmacy prices are lower or higher for the same kind of medicines than in outside firms ?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I said that no catalogue of medicines has been published, nor am I in a position to say—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was any comparison made with respect to the prices of the medicines sold here and elsewhere?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was the comparison made with respect to the sale by the Calcutta firms and .that by the firms here?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask how many times the Account Officer visited the pharmacy to inspect the records kept there?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Early in 1098.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it was a fact that a tin of *maravatti* oil was purchased for Rs. 26?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; it was purchased at that high rate. But it was of superior quality.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What is the highest price for the most refined *maravatti* oil available in the market?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, the Chief Secretary to Government is a gentleman who generally does not indulge in rhetoric; but, in opposing the resolution before the House, he said that the appointment of a committee to enquire into this important question was something like uprooting a plant which has been planted just a day before. I fail to see the logic of that argument. If this House, after listening to the speeches of the various members, after considering all the aspects of the question, the *pros* and *cons* of the whole matter, comes to the conclusion that there is something radically wrong in the Ayurveda Department, I am most emphatically of opinion that, in spite of the rhetorical device invented by the Chief Secretary to Government, we ought to have a committee appointed. The question then is, is there a sufficent justification? The charges that have been levelled against the institution are of a grave nature. From the questions that were addressed to the Chief Secretary, while he was speaking, I gathered that the good faith of some of the officers in the Ayurveda Department, their honesty and integrity, were seriously questioned. If, Sir, there is any justification for these serious imputations, I am in favour of



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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

appointing a committee. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has adverted to the various aspects of the question of Ayurvedic reform. The Chief Secretary's answer was to the effect that the number of Ayurvedic hospitals and dispensaries was steadily on the increase. An Inspector of Ayurveda on Rs. 40 is, to my mind, nothing short of an enigma. He is an officer who goes about the country inspecting dispensaries with the powers of bringing offenders to book. So he ought to be able to command the ordinary conveniences of life. Therefore I appreciate the force of that criticism levelled against the present arrangement by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. With regard to the question of prices, the Chief Secretary has assured us that there are variations and not disparities. Variations and disparities amount almost to the same thing. There may be a certain difference in degree. I am therefore of opinion that, if, on a perusal of the accounts of the Ayurvedic pharmacy, this Council comes to the conclusion that variations are unreasonable and unconscionable, that matter has to be remedied and an investigation into the cause of such variations will be surely welcome. Reference was made to the prices of articles which are being supplied to the Palace. I do not want to drag the name of the Palace in the course of the discussion. But I may say that the price that has to be paid for an article will depend upon the quality of that article. We shall not be justified in risking any presumption regarding the inferiority or superiority of any drug supplied to any institution. The quality of medicines has also been complained against. If the medicines manufactured in the pharmacy are not up to the mark and if the medicines sold by private agencies are distinctly superior in quality, that matter also requires investigation. There has been some idea on the part of some of my friends—I have gathered it in private conversations—that it is wrong to have a central pharmacy like the one that we have at the capital. I respectfully beg to take a different view. There are Ayurvedic physicians of great standing and respectability in various parts of Travancore. But on account of the vicissitudes of life, the very best of physicians do not largely trade in medicines; and the ordinary kind of Vaidyans who sell the medicines have an eye more to the profits they might make than to the quality of the medicines. I do not want to cast any aspersions on such Vaidyans; I only want to point out that, for the security of those who repair to Ayurvedic institutions—for the benefit of those who take to the Ayurvedic method of treatment—some central institution under the auspices and control of the Government should be maintained. But I am agreeable to the view that, if the present system of buying the drugs at a minimum charge from the pharmacy is wrong and if there is any justification for changing that method, that question may also be enquired into. Sir, it has been suggested that medicines may be obtained from firms outside the State. I cannot subscribe to that view. Consistently with the attitude of this Council in the matter of employing foreigners, we ought in ordinary cases to encourage home industries. We ought to be satisfied with

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medicines that can be prepared under the guidance of the Government in Travancore or prepared by grant-in-aid Vaidyans. The method of preparation may also vary. The practice relating to preparation of medicines is not the same in Calcutta and in Travancore. For example, refined *kshirabala* is not known to the outside world so well as it is known in Travancore. There are also local variations. The articles may vary in their properties ; and further there is the question of prohibitive transport charges, and we cannot be sure that the medicines supplied to us from distant Calcutta or the Punjab will be of good quality because we are even disposed to suspect the Government institution in the very heart of the capital. It will not be reasonable to argue that we should put our implicit faith in a distant firm merely because it is an outside firm. So my point is that there should be a pharmacy and there must be rules which ought to govern the way in which medicines ought to be manufactured there. There must be a proper system of accounting. There must be the responsibility of the particular officer and the position of the Director will have to be clearly explained ; or in one word, all chance of the medicines deteriorating should be prevented.

I thought of talking on this subject mostly because I thought the accusations made against the department are so serious that we shall not be justified in being indifferent to them. I must admit that I was partly guided by the circumstances that the present Director is a person whom I know intimately. For the mere reason that the officer is known to me intimately, I do not want to be unjust to him. If these accusations are not proved, it will be a good thing for all parties. If, on the other hand, the accusations are proved, and if the Director has been guilty of intentional or wilful negligence, there would be sufficient reasons to justify an enquiry, and if the character of any of the persons concerned happens to be vindicated as the result of such enquiry, I would consider it a particular pleasure for the additional reason that I know the Director and some of the officers in the department very well. My point therefore is, if the House, after considering the various aspects of the case, is agreeable to the view that the state of affairs would justify the appointment of a committee, I am also for accepting that view. But at present I keep an open mind on the question reserving to myself the right of voting as I deem fit after listening to the other speakers.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May I ask Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai whether the object of the committee is to enquire into the allegations against the Director? That is not in the original resolution.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I never said anything about the personal character of the Director.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I had asked a series of questions on the working of the Ayurveda Department; and if the answers had been given to this House before this resolution had come up, we should have been in a position to discuss the matter with greater fulness and with better information. But unfortunately

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

we have not been favoured with the answers before the motion came up. I am sorry to say that the Government member has not quite understood what Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has stated. There was no fault-finding with the Government about the introductiou of the Ayurvedic system nor of all the good that has been done by the department during the last six years. We are all very thankful to the Government and to the department for all that has been done ; but we maintain that more could have been done and that we have not got our money's worth ; nor have the people derived all the benefits the Government wanted that the department should confer upon them when it was established. Now with regard to the plant analogy, brought forward by the member on the other side of the House, I also beg to differ from him as Mr. Velu Pillai has done. In fact Mr. Velu Pillai has been taking the words out of my mouth and the wind out of my sails. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai never wanted the plant to be uprooted. All that he wanted to do was to direct the growth of the plant as it had taken a very crooked turn. He wants to manure it, water it, and give it a proper and a healthy growth. He did not want to wait till things got into a horrible mess as the Secretariat has been getting into recently and then get down people from Madras to put it in order. He wanted to put matters right in the very initial stage of the growth of the plant. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has been telling us that, out of 72 dispensaries that have been established, 12 have not been inspected by the officer in charge of the department during these six years. That I think beats the inspection of other departments. Now medical aid is the crying need of the country. Just as the need is growing more and more, the prices of English medicines are running up. Mr. K. K. Pillai, who is the agent for supplying medicines to the Travancore Government, told me the other day that the prices had run up cent. per cent.; that is a high rate at which prices are rising. We must find the ways and means to be self-contained in our medical treatment. The allopathic treatment does not reach the masses as it should do; only a certain percentage of people get this treatment. It should be our aim and purpose to provide medical treatment to all as much as possible. It is only to give a right turn to this matter that Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has brought forward this resolution.

Some time ago, when one spoke of the Ayurvedic treatment it was like a red rag to a bull in a china-shop to allopathic doctors like Dr. Lakshmanan and others. I remember the Surgeon General condemning the whole system as an old woman's story a few years ago. But the angle of vision has completely changed and the Surgeon General of Madras is now looking upon it with a very sympathetic eye. I know Dr. Poonen was undergoing this treatment. When he had a slight attack of rheumatism he used to call in the aid of an Ayurvedic doctor. I also know of other doctors requiring the services of these doctors. The other day, when we had the exhibition here, one of the physicians of the Ayurveda Department showed me a fungus which, he

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told me, was a most invaluable specific for stopping bleeding after child-birth. He said Mrs. Lukose took two of these and successfully treated cases of hæmorrhage. When I was in the Huzur as a clerk, one of my brother-clerks showed me a small herb which he said was very efficacious for the treatment of carbuncle. There are great possibilities for the development of the Ayurvedic system. For all these reasons, I strongly support Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's resolution which is very innocent, very humble and very modest in character.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA (*Edavagai*): In rising to support this resolution, I have the honor to bring to the notice of this House that the subject matter contemplated in the resolution comprises two distinct entities. Apart from the maintenance of the college, the Ayurveda Department of Travancore, as it exists to-day, is both a Government manufacturing and trading firm in Ayurvedic drugs, and a regular medical unit on Ayurvedic lines for purposes of treatment.

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It is in its capacity as a manufacturing and trading concern that the department has created misgivings in the minds of the people. On principle at least, the Government ought not to exercise the functions of a trading firm—if for no other reason than that it effectively kills private enterprise and increases the unemployment problem in the land. During these years it has been proved that no gain of moment has accrued to the Government on account of this industrial and commercial function—nay, rightly or wrongly, the popular feeling is that the materials supplied by the Government pharmacy are inferior in quality to those obtainable from respectable physicians elsewhere. All this anomaly can be remedied and a strong impetus given to private enterprise by abolishing the manufacture and trade in medicines by the Department. The medicines, etc., required for the working of the department can be obtained by the auction or tender system from respectable makers to the satisfaction of the department or from private agencies under the control and supervision of the department.

But it is entirely in another direction that Government help should come for Ayurveda. It is on the scientific side of it. The system requires improvement and expansion in the light of modern sciences if it is to be of any true service to the people. Facility must be given for research and study. Experts in Ayurveda and western medicines must be allowed to experiment and investigate the problems connected with it. There is no doubt that the Ayurveda system is worthy of much improvement. Any money spent on such a scheme will be a real investment for the real benefit of futurity.

As it stands, the department is not showing any signs of rejuvenation and is at present only of doubtful utility. To consider means and measures for remedying these evils, I believe, a small committee is very essential. It is highly necessary to have a doctor trained in the western system of medicines, with good knowledge of Sanskrit and Ayurveda, and an expert Ayurvedic Physician also, included as the members of this

[Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.]

committee. The committee must be charged to submit detailed schemes as early as possible.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*): Sir, I have been listening to the debate, and, incidentally, I have come across certain statements which, I feel, I should assist by certain statements of my own, based on my personal experience. Incidentally, in the course of the debate, reference has been made to two definite issues. Questions have also been asked in regard to both these issues. One of them is, whether, compared with the prices for similar preparations sold by other Vaidyans or pharmacies, the prices charged in the Government pharmacy are higher or lower; and, the other is, whether the quality of the preparations issued by the pharmacy is, in any way, inferior to the quality of the preparations sold by other pharmacies. I have had some experience in this matter. For the last few years, I have been purchasing a certain number of Ayurvedic preparations—oils, *lehyams*, and other preparations—from a number of institutions, both inside and outside Travancore. They are all standardised Ayurvedic preparations, which are available in very many places. I have bought them from the Andhra Ayurvedic Pharmacy in Madras, which is run by Dr. Lakshmipati as a Joint Stock Company now. I have also bought from the Venkataramana Dispensary at Madras, founded by the late Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar and endowed by him. I buy the preparations usually from the Government pharmacy in Trivandrum. And, in Trivandrum itself, I have bought them from two other Vaidyans who sell these preparations. They have also been obtained for me from Central Travancore and also from somewhere about Attingal. I have also obtained them from Mr. P. S. Variar, who is somewhere near Calicut. I can say from my personal experience what I have felt after using these standard preparations from the different places. I do not want to prolong my remarks. I may say categorically that, in *every* instance in which I made purchases of these standard preparations, the prices that I paid have *invariably* been higher elsewhere than in the Government pharmacy. In some cases, they have been higher by one hundred per cent., by two hundred per cent., and, in one case, by four hundred per cent.! At the present time, there is a gentleman at Trivandrum who sells at four times the price charged in the Government pharmacy. Except in one instance where the prices were distinctly higher by one hundred per cent. I found that the articles I purchased elsewhere were *not* in any way different in quality from the articles that I purchased from the Government dispensary in Trivandrum. As I said, this has been going on for a fairly long time: and as I have been purchasing these articles regularly almost every ten days, year after year, I am in a position to give definite information which may be of some little value to the House. I would end my observations by saying that I have felt constrained to offer my experience to this House, in view of the remarks that I have heard to-day. I do

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not know the gentleman who is the head of the Ayurveda Department. I have not exchanged a word with him, and I have personally no interest whatsoever in the fate of the resolution now before the House. Certain definite statements, which are capable of a certain definite construction in regard to the particular officer, were made and, therefore, I felt bound to give the Council the benefit of my knowledge of the matter which would put an end to any further discussion on these issues. I have felt it my duty to do so both in fairness to this House and to the officer concerned.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Sir, on a former occasion, in the course of the budget discussion, the year before last, I wanted to put down a motion for reducing the grant under the item of Ayurveda pharmacy. Later on, before the discussion came up, I thought that it would be rather ungracious on my part to try to disparage an institution which, if conducted properly, would be of very great use. Therefore, I told the Chief Secretary that I was not going to press the matter though I also told him that I had certain reasons for putting forward that motion. As Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar said, I may also say that I have not come across the gentleman who is in charge of the pharmacy. I have not even seen him. So both of us are equally disinterested in any observation that we may make in this matter. It has been, probably, as usual, my great misfortune to come across various statements about the pharmacy which are not at all complimentary to the institution. But, owing to Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar's proverbial good luck, he has had experiences which are veay pleasant and which are altogether of a different kind to mine. I am obliged to stand up here and to say things about an institution about which I am particularly anxious to think well and speak well, because it has been always my desire that an Ayurveda pharmacy conducted under the auspices of His Highness the Maha Raja of Travancore ought to be conducted in a manner that should redound to our country's glory. The one institution which the Government of an Indian Sovereign ought to be able to conduct in a manner different from and superior to what it is in British India is the Ayurveda institution. All of us who have at heart the reputation of our country and the well-being of the masses of the people who are unable to avail themselves of the benefits of allopathic treatment, have been exceedingly anxious that this institution should justify itself. The opinion current in the country about the activities of the department is therefore a source of great regret to those of us who have been hoping against hope that things would become better in course of time. I should like to request the Chief Secretary to publish the report which the Government have received from the Account Officer who audited the institution. If there is nothing to conceal in the matter, if things are as satisfactory as the Chief Secretary has been trying to make out, and if the defect is only with reference to the *system* of account-keeping, then, in view of the serious allegations made either in the shape of open statements or veiled insinuations, it would be in the highest interests of the Government, as

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

well as of the officer concerned, that the Government should place the whole report on the table without any sort of editing. It is no doubt a departmental affair ; it is open to the Government to comply with this request or to refrain from doing so. But, in view of what has been stated here, it is highly desirable that the whole statement is published so that the Council and the country may see what the truth of the matter is.

I admit that no man's character or reputation is safe against wilful perversions or malicious slanders. But the unfortunate part of it is that all the information that has been reaching me is to the effect that the prices charged by the Ayurveda pharmacy for medicines are higher than the prices charged for the same medicines by other reputable institutions; that the quality is always inferior ; and that the prices paid for the materials are unconscionably higher than those charged for the very best articles of the same kind purchased for His Highness the Maha Raja's Palace. Such being the state of affairs, I am sure the Government will not object to the appointment of a committee to look into the whole institution so that such charges may not be repeated hereafter. If the Ayurveda Department is not deserving of the censure levelled at it, here is an opportunity for that department to justify itself. It is desirable in the interests of the Government as well as of the public that this Council should be given an opportunity of looking into the whole matter. Hence I am supporting the motion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Sir, though I am generally against the appointment of separate committees unless there is a necessity, I think, after hearing the discussion up to this, I should support the mover in asking for a separate committee to enquire into the matter. Of course in the last few months, reports have reached me too as to the undesirable method of spending money in the department. When my friend sent in this resolution, I thought in his speech he would refer to something of that kind. But as a man who is judicially trained, he has carefully avoided it because he has not proper materials before him. But from the replies which we were able to elicit from the Chief Secretary, I think we have got a sufficient basis to start an enquiry. Of course, I do not say that the working of the department in other directions is very imperfect or very perfect. As for that matter, I do think that other departments also have not reached perfection. But with regard to this particular point, I am very earnest. If there is at least an alleged suspicion or serious doubt as to the way in which money is being spent by the department, I think it will be better for the Government as well as the officer concerned and for the responsible members of this Council to vote for the appointment of a committee so that the whole thing may be placed before that body. With these observations, I support the resolution.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*) : Sir, I seriously think that a case has been made out for the appointment of a committee

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to enquire into the Ayurveda Department. Very serious allegations have been made against the Ayurveda Department and when the Chief Secretary stood up to reply to them I thought we should have some sort of consolation from what he was going to say. He himself in his speech has admitted that there are very many defects. But the way in which he opposed the appointment of a committee by the analogy of pulling up a small plant which was planted the day before is entirely out of place. The committee is not to pluck away the Ayurvedic plant but only to inspect and examine it and show it the way in which it is going wrong in order that it may grow more luxuriant, strike deeper root in the country and be of greater use to the people. The committee is not for sweeping away the department into the region of oblivion but for taking greater care for pointing out its defects and for making suggestions towards its improvement. The one other reason for opposing it was that it might not be proper for us to interfere with this institution which is at its early stage of experience. I think it is at this stage that this institution requires the greatest care and attention. We are now going through the Baby Week. If the principle involved in the reasoning of the Chief Secretary is applied, I think that the Baby Week and the Child Welfare movement which we are having at present in India are follies. Why not let the children take care of themselves? That seems to be the line of argument of the Chief Secretary in opposing the resolution.

Then the second reason why I would support the resolution is that, when certain questions were asked, the answers which the Chief Secretary gave were not at all satisfactory. Not only were they not at all satisfactory but the answers were, in my opinion, evasive, thereby disclosing the miserable state in which the whole department is worked. I think the climax was reached when *maravatti* oil came into the scene. (*Laughter.*) He said one tin of that oil was purchased at Rs. 26 per tin. I am not at all acquainted with the Director of Ayurveda as Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai is. But I am acquainted with many a tax-payer in this country. I am also one of them. I do not know what the poor tax-payer in the country would think of this *maravatti* oil at such a cheap rate as Rs. 26 per tin! I think, in view of this sort of allegation and as the Chief Secretary said the department is in its infant-stage, it is highly necessary that a committee should be instituted to enquire into these. I think a committee will be conducive to the better working of the department and for the good of the public. If, as a matter of fact, the allegations are untrue, the department can vindicate itself; if on the other hand the allegations are true, they will be proved and proper remedies applied.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I also wish to offer a few observations on the subject under discussion. There is first of all the main resolution of Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai before the House; and during the course of the discussion something like a parasitical growth has been brought into existence by reference to what the Account Officer had to do with the examination of the accounts of the Ayurveda Department. I will take up the latter subject first.



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[President.]

With respect to this latter aspect of the question, *viz.*, with respect to the condition of the accounts of the Ayurveda Department, the case, so far as I can see, is practically *undefended* by the Government. The Chief Secretary, in his replies to the queries from this side of the House, admitted ultimately that the Government had not gone through the entire volume of the accounts of the Ayurveda Department; so much so, that he was not in a position to vouch for the correctness of the accounts himself. But, while referring to the question of account-keeping, whether the method resorted to by the Director of Ayurveda is a novel method standing as an isolated variety in the whole range of account-keeping, has not been explained. However, if it stands by itself, as a special class of account-keeping, then that itself, I fear, will give room to some sort of mild suspicion. If, on the other hand, it is one of the approved varieties of account-keeping that has been resorted to by the Director of Ayurveda, even if it is not quite frequent in Travancore, on the strength of precedent, it may be supported.

Then incidentally the value of particular articles sold in the Ayurveda pharmacy was also brought up for discussion. There is the direct testimony upon the subject furnished by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar which is opposed to the information which many of us have received. I have been assured by some people that, somehow or other, some of the medicines and preparations sold by the Ayurveda pharmacy in Trivandrum, under the control of the Director of Ayurveda, seem to stand much higher in price than articles purchased elsewhere.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*) : May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether he has verified the statement with regard to the *Dhanvantaratailam*, *Asanavilvaditailam* and *Balagulichityaditailam* ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not hear anything.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*) : May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether he has verified the statement with regard to *Dhanvantaratailam*, *Asanavilvaditailam*, and *Balagulichityaditailam* ? That is to say, has he had *certain* information which contradicts mine ? I ask whether he has verified the information on the three specific preparations which I speak of.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Will Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I am in possession of the House. (*Laughter.*)

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I will put my question to Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.

PRESIDENT : You will wait until he has answered Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I may say that I have not myself verified the statement. I have only information *per contra*. In the present instance, there is the direct testimony of Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar. So even considering—

PRESIDENT: Mr. M. N. Pillai, you may put your question now.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether the qualities of *Dhanvantaratailam*, *Asanavilvaditailam* and *Balaguli-chityadi tailam* available in the pharmacy and elsewhere are the same.

PRESIDENT: From whom do you want the answer? (*Continued laughter.*)

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether the quality supplied by the Ayurveda pharmacy and that available in other pharmacies in Trivandrum are the same.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am unable to make any statement with respect to that matter, because I have never purchased *Dhanvantaratailam* or any other oil either from the Ayurveda pharmacy or elsewhere. I have only information supplied to me by several persons, which I apply for the time being to the subject now under discussion. My only submission with respect to this question is that we have conflicting evidence submitted to the House.

But if the increase in the price of articles can be explained away by a reference to the method of account-keeping, I am not prepared to accept that view of the matter, since the method of account-keeping certainly cannot kick up the price of articles. That is rather difficult to believe. The irregularities of the Head of the Department also seem to have been explained away by a reference to the method of account-keeping. That also is a matter worthy of being considered.

Then with respect to this parasitical development, as I submitted, on the resolution, Government themselves, through the Chief Secretary, are prepared to say that they have not come to a final conclusion in the matter. Such being the case, as I submitted, since no final conclusion has been arrived at, I do not see that there is anything to offer by way of attack or defence against such a subject.

It is certainly within the range of the duties of the Government to feel themselves responsible to the public at large to investigate the question, to clear any suspicion and to satisfy the people that there is absolutely nothing ugly in the department. I would, therefore, submit that it is premature to attack the irregularities that have been mentioned or suggested with respect to the transactions and the business carried on by the Director of Ayurveda at the present juncture. That, I would again point out, is not the main proposition before the House.

The main proposition before the House is the resolution as to the necessity of a committee to further the development and expand the system of indigenous medicines, *viz.*, the system of Ayurveda. It is on this point that my friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai urges his resolution,

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

Of course, as regards the question that has incidentally arisen, if the system of account-keeping, as admitted by the opposite side, is such as to destroy the growth of the system of Ayurveda, then the method of account-keeping itself will have to be looked into by some competent body. If there is any such system of account-keeping as would choke Ayurveda, it should certainly be done away with.

With respect to the main proposition before the House, the question is, have we not arrived at a stage at which it is quite possible to give full scope to the development of the system of indigenous medicines in Travancore? That is the question to be considered. As regards that question, though there are very many other systems of medicine, of which we have formidable representatives here in Dr. Lakshmanan and Dr. M. N. Pillai, the system of Ayurveda has survived the somewhat unsympathetic criticism at the hands of doctors who follow other systems of medicine. It has been raised in status in spite of the criticism levelled against it and has been given something like a permanent position in the State; and so far as the poor man is concerned it is within his reach and homogeneous with his environment. The question naturally arises as to what the Government should do in the matter of giving encouragement to and spreading the scope of the indigenous system. As to that matter, the present system of giving grants-in-aid to Vaidyans is as old as the department itself which, as I understood from the learned Chief Secretary, was introduced in Travancore in the year 1071. The matter requires further examination. Why should not the Government organise a regular Department of Ayurveda similar to that of the allopathic system? The Ayurvedic physician might be treated as a Government officer like the allopathic doctor, might occasionally be transferred from place to place and might be given some privileges like the other Government servants just to give him a respectable status. Why should not the Government organise a department of that description with the necessary accompaniments and facilities? It is a question that has to be taken into consideration. That, I think, is the object of Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. If, as I think, the time has arrived for it, the assistance of an expert committee—mainly composed of expert physicians and other doctors who have sympathy with the system, like Dr. Lakshmanan and Dr. M. N. Pillai, whose criticisms as regards the defect of the system may also be invited—might be sought, and that committee might be asked to devise a scheme to develop the system of Ayurveda so that greater use may be made of the system of indigenous treatment. Then I think it is worth a trial. It is in that spirit that we have to view the resolution that has been moved by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. From the year 1071, the situation has not practically changed at all. Ever since the system was introduced in Travancore, the old idea seems to cling to the Government and there is no scope for material modification so far as the organisation of the department is concerned. Therefore, if the matter is worthy of fuller investigation, as I think it is, a committee of experts might be appointed to enquire into the question. My friend Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai seems to be particular that some non-official members also must be included in the committee. I do not think that is

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very necessary. A committee of officials and experts alone might be asked to investigate and prepare a scheme for the development of the department. Without going into the ramifications in the proceedings directed by the reference to the method of account-keeping, and all that, about which I myself might call for information after the Government have said that they have come to a final conclusion in the matter, I would submit that, in view of the possibility of the scope of the department, I would support the resolution of Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to speak a few words in support of the resolution. I do not support this resolution simply because there is much corruption in the Ayurveda Department. If that is so, there is corruption in every other department of the State, and all the departments require to be looked into. Several committees will have to be appointed if we have to investigate the question of corruption in the various departments of the State. I am for the development of the Ayurvedic system for the benefit of the suffering humanity. It is with that object that I support the resolution. I think there is considerable scope for improving the department. It is certainly bad policy on the part of the Government to spend a lot of money in the preparation of drugs for commercial purposes. I think the whole trouble is due to the competition between private practitioners and the Government pharmacy. Loss of customers is sure to rouse jealousy. As long as there is the Government pharmacy, there will be much complaint from private practitioners. Probably the prices in the private pharmacies might also be cheaper. I do not know about the quality of the drugs. I have not got much experience in the matter. I also know Mr. Sankara Menon, though he is not my intimate friend. I think that the preparation of medicines must be done in hospitals under the supervision of physicians in charge of hospitals or dispensaries. The money spent in the pharmacy might as well be spent in opening various dispensaries in the various important taluks of the State. If this competition with the private practitioner is put an end to, then, I think, the major portion of the complaint would vanish. I think the department would work very satisfactorily if there is no such competition.

As regards the system of giving grants-in-aid, I do not approve of it. I do not think the aided Vaidyans are doing much useful work. The money spent on the pharmacy should be distributed to the several taluks of the State where small dispensaries might be opened and left in the charge of physicians appointed by the Government. It will be a gain to the Government, because Ayurvedic dispensaries can be established at a much lower cost than allopathic institutions. Moreover, there is not the cost involved in importing foreign drugs. In the case of rich municipalities, it might be left to the municipalities themselves. There are some municipalities which have Rs. 8,000 or Rs. 10,000 locked up without any use. I think Government can ask such municipalities to open Ayurveda dispensaries. For instance, there is the Kuzhiittura Municipality which is very rich. There is only a

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[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

Mission hospital there, but it is only like a private dispensary, because people have to pay for the medicines. In such cases, the municipalities might be asked to open Ayurveda dispensaries and the Government can supply them with physicians. It would be useful and beneficial to the people also.

As regards the Ayurveda College also, I have to say that the students are not benefited by the existence of the pharmacy and dispensary attached to the department. It is due chiefly to the location of these institutions in different places. All these institutions should be housed together and the students asked to help in the management of these dispensaries and pharmacies and in the preparation of medicines so that they may get practical lessons. I understand they are not given sufficient scope to work in the pharmacy.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask Dr. M. N. Pillai if he is able to say anything about the comparative cheapness of Ayurvedic and homeopathic treatments?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I think homeopathy will be much cheaper (*laughter*) and it is the proper treatment for the poor people, and of course for the rich too, if they are inclined to take it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know why he recommends the abolition of the grant-in-aid system.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not want to abolish that entirely. What I say is that, in places where there are grant-in-aid physicians, you must pay them and make them Government servants. Now there are several grant-in-aid Vaidyans, but you will not find them when you go in search of them. They may be out. They may be sleeping. There may be no work at all for them. So it is more or less like a pension that they are drawing and perhaps they may be showing accounts of 5,000 to 6,000 patients receiving treatment at their hands. What I urge is that Government should maintain dispensaries in each of the taluk head quarters. In Trivandrum you find the Ayurveda dispensary having about thirty thousand patients treated in the dispensary annually. So the expenditure on allopathic medicines must have lessened.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether he recommends that private practitioners should be absorbed in the department?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes, if it is possible; I think, gradually, there should be as many Ayurveda dispensaries in the State as we have allopathic hospitals.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): You spend about twenty thousand rupees for the preparation of medicines on a commercial scale, but I think you should divert that amount so that you can gradually reduce the medical allotment for European drugs.

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PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With these few words, I support the resolution.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, until I heard the Chief Secretary upon this resolution, I was not sure that such a strong case had been made out for the appointment of a committee to enquire into this matter. After hearing him, if I have been convinced of one thing more than another, it is the absolute need for the appointment of such a committee. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has, in his speech on the resolution, brought forward indictments of a very strong and severe nature against the working of the department. He pointed out that, in so far as the direction of the department is concerned, there is very little of it; that although there are only about 72—or 82 according to the Chief Secretary—Vaidyasalas in the State, during the last six years, many of these Vaidyasalas have not been inspected by the Director and some of them were inspected only twice and some thrice; that so far as the pharmacy is concerned, the whole thing is in a confusion; that medicines and drugs are purchased not only at exorbitant prices but also at unreasonable prices; that proper accounts are not being kept in the pharmacy; and so on and so on.

Nevertheless, in the reply given by the Chief Secretary, he had absolutely nothing to say against any of these indictments. He sought to answer the speech by a reference to the achievements of the department for the last six years since it was organised. He also told us that the department was reorganised in 1093 and that since then the pharmacy was attached to it and several Vaidyasalas were opened and hospitals or dispensaries were established in Trivandrum and so on.

Of course, all that merely shows that the activities of the department have increased; but it does not argue at the same time that the working of the department has been on a satisfactory basis. So long as the allegations made against the department by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai remain unanswered, it appears to me that a very strong case has been made out for the appointment of a committee. The Chief Secretary told us that it was an infant department and therefore there would be imperfections inevitable in the working of it. Now, may I ask the Chief Secretary whether the absence of inspection of Vaidyasalas by the Director or the purchase of drugs at five or six times their real prices in the market is the result of the department being only a short-standing one? There are doubtless defects which are incidental to an infant department. To say of this department which has been in existence for a long time, that it has been working only for a short time or that only recently it has been organised, is no argument at all, against the allegations made by the mover of the proposition. The Chief Secretary told us that there might be defects and that perfection could not be claimed for the working of the department. At any rate, I see something carried to perfection; perfection has been attained in regard to the purchase of medicines at abnormally high prices. There is no proper management of the department. The Chief Secretary also told

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us that it was not proper to investigate and inquire into the working of this department because it has only been recently started and it would be something like uprooting a plant which has been recently planted. I do not think there is any analogy between the two. If these allegations are correct and well-founded, as I am inclined to think from the inability of the Chief Secretary to answer them, the sooner they are nipped in the bud the better. Hence the sooner the working of the department is examined the better for all purposes concerned.

Sir, the Ayurveda Department is a very important one in the State. The Ayurvedic system of medicines serves a much larger proportion of the people of the country than the allopathic or any other system of medicine. In fact, in various parts of the country where you cannot get the aid of allopathic doctors or European doctors, people entirely depend upon the Ayurvedic system of treatment for their health and lives; and so far as I know it has been very successful in giving medical relief to the poor. Therefore it is a department which should be properly organised and managed and it is of the utmost importance that all these defects and imperfections are removed as early as possible. So far as I know, the department could not have done better in the organisation of it, because it is very difficult to find another man in whom very high attainments in education are combined with a knowledge of Ayurvedic medicines. Therefore in choosing the present Director of Ayurveda the Government have done the very best thing which they could have done in the organisation of the department. But this is no reason why, if defects and irregularities of a serious nature are pointed out, enquiry should not be made into the working of this department. I am fortified in this suggestion by the fact that even Mr. Nidiry, who is a natural enemy of all committees, has come forward to support the appointment of a committee at least in this matter. He dreads a committee as much as Captain Cuttle the sight of a bonnet. But even he seems to think that in this instance a case has been made out for the purpose of appointing a committee; and therefore I feel all the more strong in supporting the resolution before the House and I do so with great pleasure.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask what his views are about bettering the status of grant-in-aid Vaidyans or the other alternative of having departmental Vaidyans of sufficient pay and respectability?

PRESIDENT: He has not said anything about it in his speech. I do not think it arises here either.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I have no opinion to offer in the matter. I think that grant-in-aid Vaidyans deserve greater encouragement than they now receive at the hands of the Government. The grants given to them, *viz.*, Rs. 15 to Rs. 30, are very poor; and therefore, if possible, proper Vaidyans should be appointed on a much larger grant-in-aid.

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So far as the question of my friend is concerned, I think there are various defects in appointing Vaidyans as Government servants as they do in the case of the allopathic doctors. In the first place, proper Vaidyans of high standing are not easy to obtain; and secondly it is not easy to get medicines unless the Government themselves undertake to supply medicines in their pharmacy; and knowing as we do the way in which it is done in the pharmacy, I think it is better to leave them to make their own arrangements for medicines on proper grant from the Government.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether it is not possible for the Government to have Government dispensaries in different centres without having a central pharmacy in the State.

PRESIDENT: He has already answered that question. He does not want Government dispensaries because it is difficult to supply them with medicines.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to say something about that. It is possible—

PRESIDENT: You cannot speak a second time.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I be permitted to speak a word as a personal explanation?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): I am sorry my friend has misunderstood me with regard to my position. I am not a natural enemy of committees. (*Laughter.*) I may assure my friend that I do not believe in superfluous committees. That is all. Of course, as to whether a particular committee is necessary or not, it is a thing about which opinions may differ. But I am not a natural enemy of committees; at the same time I may tell him that I believe not only in committees but in other things also.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I support Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai's proposition. I think the appointment of a committee is necessary to consider the question of developing the Ayurveda Department. Though I am not a believer in any system of medicine (*laughter*), I think the majority of people have got great faith in the ayurvedic system of treatment.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Not even in *Dhanvantarm* oil?

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I have *no* belief in *any* system of medicine. Yet the majority of people have great faith in the Ayurvedic system; and as it is an indigenous system, it has to be encouraged. I am glad to know that the Government are encouraging this system properly; but from the speech delivered by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai I come to know that there is something rotten in the state of the Ayurveda Department and a committee will have to be appointed to enquire into the working of that department and to suggest various measures for developing it. One question



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about which much has been said is the pharmacy. This pharmacy, I understand from Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, is intended for three purposes, namely, to manufacture and sell medicines to the public, to give practical training to certain boys in the Ayurveda College and to supply medicines to hospitals and dispensaries in Trivandrum. I am not for the abolition of the pharmacy altogether. But I am of opinion that the pharmacy should not be conducted by the Government as a commercial concern. A pharmacy may be necessary for the supply of medicine to the hospital and dispensary at Trivandrum, or it may be necessary for giving practical training to the boys in the college. But for that purpose a big pharmacy, as is now conducted, is unnecessary and so much money need not be spent upon that. The man who is now appointed for the working of the pharmacy, and the amount which is now being spent may be better utilised for establishing other pharmacies and dispensaries in the most important towns in the State. That is the point which ought to be discussed by experts in the line, and for that purpose a committee may be necessary. Another class of institutions by which the Ayurveda Department exercises its influence over the people is the Vaidyasalas in the State. But all these Vaidyasalas are not of very great use at present. Some Vaidyasalas are situated in places where many persons do not live; some are not accessible to all classes of people; and even in the classification of Vaidyasalas I do not think that any principle is recognised by the department. The ability of the Vaidyan or the quality of the medicines he has stocked in the Vydyasala or any other principle is not recognised by the department in giving grants. That too is a question which ought to be seriously considered by a committee of experts.

Referring to the working of the department, I have to speak a few words about inspection in the Ayurveda Department. There are only about 82 Vaidyasalas and these can be conveniently inspected by the Ayurveda Director. I think he is not overburdened with duties. He does not teach in the college and he exercises, if at all, only a general supervision over the pharmacy and dispensary; and he will be able to inspect all the Vaidyasalas once a year. A capable man on Rs. 40 *per mensem* who is appointed to teach students as well as to inspect these Vaidyasalas earns Rs. 100 as travelling allowance. So, even with regard to the inspection of Vaidyasalas, certain rules have to be made *viz.*, how Vaidyasalas are to be kept up, how inspections should be carried on, and how Vaidyasalas are to be conducted. I think a committee is necessary to consider these things.

I have heard a good deal about the quality of the medicines issued from the pharmacy at Trivandrum and the general report is—I can frankly say I have not used any of the medicines from the pharmacy—that certain medicines prepared in the pharmacy are of inferior quality and for certain other medicines the prices are too high. And if this is a fact, the pharmacy is not of very great help to the public in general. If the public do not want this pharmacy, I ask the question, why the Government impose the pharmacy upon the people and why they spend

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about Rs. 25,000 on it? It is a serious charge against the Government that there is considerable leakage in the pharmacy and the Government may get a profit of only ten per cent. on the sale of medicines, for which I wish to get an answer from Mr. Krishna Pillai. Suppose a medicine is prepared for Rs. 100 and it is sold at Rs. 105 and that will have to be repeated 100 times a year. Are the Government getting a profit which accrues to the Ayurveda Department by the preparation of specific medicines these specific times and by the profit derived by the sale of these medicines? So on this ground I think a committee will have to be appointed to enquire into the working of the department and to suggest various measures for the development of the department. There are in the Government service persons who are well acquainted with the systems of allopathic and Ayurvedic treatments. Some private Vaidyans may also be appointed to the committee. A committee of officials and non-officials can enquire into the whole system and draft a scheme for the better management of the Ayurveda Department.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, there is a rule of law that, if a person is accused of a serious offence and a neigbour knows that he is innocent, he has to offer himself as a witness even though he has not been cited as one. It is on that principle, I dare say, that Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar stood up and said a few words. It is on the very same principle that I should like to say a word or two in this connection. Though Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar gave direct testimony, my friends on the other side were not able to contradict him by any direct testimony. They were prepared to contradict him on hearsay evidence which is not admissible at all. Mr. M. N. Pillai struck the correct note when he said that the existence of the Government pharmacy has taken the income from the hands of many of the indigenous Vaidyans. And therefore it is quite natural that when things are sold cheap in the Government pharmacy it should be reported that the quality is inferior and that is why we get it cheap. Therefore we ought to be very careful in condemning the department or the person. I myself have been using these preparations for so many years, particularly the one which Mr. Hoogewerf is fond of, *viz.*, *Dhanvantaram*. (*Laughter.*) I have been purchasing it from the Vaidyans, and also from the Government pharmacy for the last 3 or 4 years at a much cheaper rate, probably at half the price prevalent elsewhere, and I may assure the House that I have not in the least been the worse of for using it. Anyhow the efficacy seems to be all the same. That is all that I can say, because I do not know the ingredients that go to form the oil. There are probably some people interested in condemning things by saying that the medicines are of bad stuff or that the drugs sold in the pharmacy are not quite up to the mark.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Who are the *some people* here *interested* in condemning the department or the person?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I never said anything about the members here. It may be that some people are

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

interested, because we know that in the world of every—day life there is always keen competition. Whenever there is keen competition, it is a matter of common knowledge that it is the interest of the competitors to belittle the worth of their opponents and to say that everything is rotten in the case of the opponents and everything is right so far as they are concerned. To that extent there is a certain amount of interest in every profession, but honourable people never do that. (*Laughter.*) So that I may say that it is always the case that, whenever there is keen competition, it is likely that some people are interested in condemning the department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether that man in charge of the pharmacy knew that it was for the Law Member?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe the same price is fixed for all. I may tell my friends here that an *Edangali* of *Dhanvantaram* oil costs 36 fanams. I do not know whether anybody has paid more. If I have that testimony, it must be said that the Director is partial to Government officers.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will he explain how, if the cost price of the articles purchased by the Director of Ayurveda stands higher, it will be possible for him to sell it at the same rate as private practitioners?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I daresay Mr. Narayana Pillai knows that Vaidyans are not paid for particular visits. As a rule they always take their share from the prescription of medicine. (*Laughter.*) We know as a matter of fact that, if private practitioners sell their medicines at the Government rates, they will be nowhere. There is no use in their preparing medicines. If the Government price is 10 fanams, private practitioners cannot but sell at a higher price.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Does your implication refer to all Vaidyans? There are Vaidyans who charge professional fees and also manufacture medicines. Therefore I should like to know whether the condemnation refers to such Vaidyans too.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): No; certainly not. I say there are honourable men in every profession and others who want to make profits only. It may be that some people are interested in condemning it.

MR. P. PARAMESVARAN (*Nominated*): ആയുർവേദ ഫാർമസിയിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന ധാന്വന്തരത്തിൽ പാലോ ഉഴുന്നുകഷായമോ ചേർക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I do not know. എനിക്കതിനെപ്പറ്റി അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether the price list is specially made in the pharmacy ? Is *Dhanvantaram* oil made in the pharmacy specially for you or do you purchase it from the common store?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is not prepared for me particularly. When I purchase, I send my servant and get it. The man in charge of the pharmacy does not know that the oil is for me.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : May I know what oil Mr. Subba Aiyar generally purchases for his use ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : *Dhanvantram.*

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Where does he usually purchase it ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I have been purchasing it from the pharmacy for the last 3 or 4 years. As I said, I do not know the ingredients which those people use or the other people use ; so far as efficacy is concerned, I do not say anything. It is only about the price. But the point really is—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether the Law Member has purchased this from Mr. Madhavan Vaidyan or some other medical practitioner ? How does it compare in price or in quality ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have puschased it from him also. The price is a little higher. But during the last three or four years, I have been purchasing it almost invariably from the Government pharmacy.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What was the price then ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I believe it was about 16 fanams per *nali*.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether, before he began to purchase from the Ayurveda pharmacy, he was obtaining the same from Mr. Madhavan Vaidyan ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I was getting from Mr. Madhavan Vaidyan as well as from other people.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : What was the price then ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe it was sixteen fanams then also.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Are you paying the same price now ?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is only nine fanams per *nali* in the pharmacy.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Which is cheaper? (*Laughter.*)

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is obvious. I said I have purchased from Mr. Madhavan Vaidyan and from the pharmacy. So far as the price is concerned, it is not always the same.

But the point that we really want is the appointment of a committee to develop and expand the Ayurvedic system of treatment here. Now, in the consideration of this question, we have been carried away by the fact that there are some irregularities in the department which are alleged to exist and therefore Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai struck the correct note when he said that there was a practical parasitical development of it and not covering the real issue. I should particularly urge upon the members of the House to consider the desirability of appointing a committee for the expansion of the Ayurvedic system and improving the system by having experts on the committee. The Chief Secretary explained by saying that such members should have experience in both the systems and, as far as possible, be persons who have critical faculties and constructive ideas, and such people will have to be got down from other parts of the country, and it may not be, I believe, possible to get down such men. It is on this ground that he has objected to it. But we ought not to be carried away by feeling. Reference was made to the purchase of a tin of *maravatti* oil.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether he is able to give us any information with regard to the capacity of the particular tin?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I never said anything about it. I am only saying what I heard from the various observations. I myself have never seen one tin of *maravatti* oil. (*Laughter.*) The point is that, for the first time after the Ayurveda Department was organised, the Account Officer audited the accounts of the department in 1098. He has evidently submitted a report to the Government and that report is being considered by the Government. Let us take it that the price is in some instances is higher than the price obtaining in the market. Let us also take it that there are some mistakes in the accounts. The question is whether these are not properly things to be disposed of by the Government. One tola of musk you can purchase for eight annas. If you want genuine stuff you will have to pay Rs. 80 for a tola. It depends upon the quality of the stuff. In other words, what I beg to submit is that in the first place the various discrepancies must be noted, the system of accounts should be checked and the Government must pass final orders. Whenever there is any mistake, they should call for an explanation from the Director. I daresay that all the members know that, if the Director is guilty of fraud as is now hinted, insinuated or suggested by some, then there is such a thing as the Departmental Enquiries Regulation. An enquiry will be started against him and I say that by means of such an enquiry his faults could be found out. When there are ever so many safeguards I ask the members to seriously consider the question whether, from the mere fact that there are certain

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accusations against that officer, it will be desirable to place him in the dock and ask him to explain his conduct. I think the question of irregularities and mistakes in the man, or the high prices of medicines ought not to guide us in deciding that a committee is necessary. But the question should be judged entirely upon a different aspect as Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai pointed out, namely, whether it is necessary to have experts to consider the working of the Department of Ayurveda. Whether such experts are available or have to be got down from elsewhere and whether it is desirable to do so, all these the House will have to consider ,detaching the one from the other. Because there are some accusations against the Director and there is something wrong somewhere, on that ground we ought not to decide all at once that a committee should be appointed. It will be something like placing a man for trial before the Sessions Court before any police investigation has been made and before a magistrate has conducted a preliminary enquiry.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there anything in the resolution to suggest that there is corruption in the department?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If my ears are quite right, most of the speeches were directed against that and that alone. From that I am inclined to believe that the members are carried away by the fact that there is something wrong in the department so far as that particular matter is concerned. That seems to have guided prominently the members in saying that they would go in for a committee. I say from what has been stated and from the allegations of some of the members of this House I base my argument.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Does he know that the committee demanded by the resolution is also intended to examine into the working of the department?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the idea is to develop and expand it and make it very useful, *that* is to be judged totally from a different point of view. From what I heard I understood that, in most of the arguments there was very little said on the side of expanding or how best to develop the department and what should be done. Much that I heard was about the corruption that is alleged to exist in the department. That is why I say—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT. I cannot allow the discussion to be interrupted like this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did I not say that the department should be expanded and every facility should be given for the working of the department?

PRESIDENT: You are not putting a question.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Does he think that the irregularities in the working of the department are *not* covered by the resolution?

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the interpretation that is put upon the wording of the resolution.

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[President.]

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): My point is that, if so, I am against the appointment of a committee to go into the irregularities or the alleged incorrectness or fraud that is obtaining in the department. Therefore we should leave that apart, and if there are other grounds for developing and expanding the Ayurvedic system by the appointment of a committee, by all means vote for it. I daresay the members will agree with me in thinking that to enquire against a particular officer a committee should not be appointed without proper things being done.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganmur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether there are any allegations against a particular officer?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes; because the whole thing is done by the Director who is responsible for the money. Everything is said with reference to him. It was said that without tenders he had been purchasing drugs. He has been disposing and selling. That, I thought, meant nothing else.

MR. J. JOHN NIDRIY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is it not against the department? It is general and not specific.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The allegations are for the Government to decide.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Does he know that the audit report has been before the Government for the past seven months and that they have not been able to arrive at a decision?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I daresay the member knows that it is not the only matter that the Government are concerned with. It involves a large volume of work, particularly when the report contains many details.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Will not the committee expedite matters?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I think it is just the reverse of it.

PRESIDENT: We will rise now and meet again at 11-30 to-morrow.

The Council adjourned at 5-20 P M.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*

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